



IDAHO'S MIDDLE SCHOOL TASK FORCE

Rigor. Relevance. Relationships.

ABOUT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL TASK FORCE:

The State Department of Education and State Board of Education created the Middle School Task Force in May 2007 with the purpose of improving rigor, relevance and relationships in the middle grades, identifying pockets of success throughout Idaho to develop best practices for all middle schools, and ensuring every Idaho student is prepared to be successful in high school and beyond.

FOCUS OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL TASK FORCE:

The Task Force has focused on five key areas: Student accountability, middle level curriculum, academic intervention, leadership among staff at the middle level, and student transitions between the middle and high school grades.

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Student Accountability:

Require implementation of a credit system no later than 7th grade. A school district or charter school shall require students to attain a minimum of 80 percent of credits or complete an alternate route in order to move on to the next grade. Students will not be allowed to lose a full year of credit in one academic area.

Middle Level Curriculum:

Offer professional development for teachers and provide school districts and charter schools with the technical assistance necessary to ensure curriculum is relevant, challenging, integrative, and exploratory. School districts and charter schools will still have considerable flexibility in curriculum decisions.

Academic Intervention:

Require a structured mechanism for students to recover credits so they can meet all credit requirements, and develop best practices for school districts and charter schools on how to maximize resources and provide meaningful intervention programs.

Leadership Among Staff:

Create a teacher certification and/or endorsement for middle level educators and provide professional development, learning and instructional leadership opportunities for school administrators at the middle level.

Transition to High School:

Develop best practices for a systematic approach for student transition from middle school to high school based on successful programs in middle schools across the state.

Parent Involvement:

Develop best practices for ways in which parents can become more involved when their students reach the middle grades.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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TASK FORCE:

The task force includes key stakeholders – superintendents, high school and middle school principals, school board trustees, teachers, counselors, legislators, parents, business representatives and representatives from the Department, State Board of Education and Professional-Technical Education.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

1. Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction
2. Sue Thilo, Member of the State Board of Education
3. Hazel Bauman, Assistant Superintendent of Coeur d'Alene School District
4. Randy Jensen, Principal of William Thomas Middle School, American Falls School District
5. Georgeanne Griffith, Principal of Timberlake Junior High, Lakeland School District
6. Scott Miller, Principal of Hillcrest High School, Bonneville School District
7. Chris Avila, Math Teacher at Jerome Middle School, Jerome School District
8. Thel Pearson, Counselor in Midvale School District
9. Susan Bench, Idaho PTA President-Elect, Blackfoot
10. Jennifer McEntee, Parent representative, Boise
11. Bill Young, Business representative, Boise
12. Maria Nate, Parent representative, Rexburg
13. Annette Winchester, School Board trustee, Bonneville School District
14. Rep. Liz Chavez, Legislative representative, Lewiston
15. Sen. Russ Fulcher, Legislative representative, Meridian
16. Rob Sauer, Department staff, Deputy Superintendent of Innovation and Choice
17. Allison McClintick, State Board staff, K-12 and Educator Policy Manager
18. Nancy Walker, Professional-Technical Education staff
19. Jennifer Cornell, West Middle School, Nampa, Idaho Middle Level Association
20. Bev Bradford, Executive Director, Idaho Middle Level Association
21. Sherri Wood, President, Idaho Education Association

